

ORIGINAL

FILED

12/07/2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

Case Number: AF 09-0688

Re: Professional Rules of Conduct, Rule 8.4(g)

Honorable Members of the Court,

You have called for public comment of the proposed new Rule 8.4(g) of the Professional Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys. As a concerned citizen, I hereby submit my request that you reject this rule for the following reasons.

This is in opposition of my religious freedom. It is definitely government overreach. Finally, it cancels out my freedom of speech.

Signed,

Alicia L. Wold

FILED

DEC 07 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

Re: Professional Rules of Conduct, Rule 8.4(g)

Honorable Members of the Court,

ORIGINAL

You have called for public comment of the proposed new Rule 8.4(g) of the professional Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys. As a concerned citizen, I hereby submit my request that you **REJECT** this rule for the following reasons. This Rule would completely go against freedom of speech ^{stated} in the first amendment. This law would impose ~~that~~ upon Christian lawyers that they can't disagree with ~~the~~ people who believe that marriage is not between one man and one woman. A lawyers job is to disagree with the other opposing party.

Signed,

Hayden Massar

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DEC 07 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Clerk of Montana Supreme Court
PO Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Re: Professional Rules of Conduct- Rule 8.4

Honorable Members of the Court,

12/5/16

In response to your call for public comment regarding case number AF 09-0688 on the proposed new Rule 8.4(g) of the Professional Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys, we hereby submit our request that you decline the adoption of this rule.

This rule would severely limit Montana Lawyers' verbal conduct, even in social situations in connection with the practice of law. This limitation is a dangerous "foot in the door" to the total abolishment of free speech. This concerns us greatly. Who will be next?

Montana lawyers may also find themselves under the threat of discipline by associating themselves with religious organizations that hold certain behaviors connected to a sexual orientation, gender identity or marital status, to be contrary to their belief system. This is an open assault on religious freedom which would very likely result in lack of access to legal advice from lawyers who are reluctant to grant pro-bono work, or to sit on the governing boards of congregations and not-for-profit companies because it would not allow for sincerely held religious beliefs held by a lawyer to be spoken against such behaviors without acting in a discriminatory manner. The adoption of this rule, threatens their very livelihood on the basis of their speech. If they speak their beliefs they may be disciplined.

Accordingly, under this rule change, only the "favored" classes will enjoy the support of Montana attorneys while the rest will be denied due to lawyers' fear of facing discipline for not being "politically correct".

This rule change was not proposed to protect clients, attorneys, or the court. It was proposed because the ABA is trying to push an ideological agenda. Social engineering should not be tolerated or supported by the court. The court is not and never was intended to be the final authority of social values but rather, to interpret the law. This is precisely why we have a nation founded on the rule of law, a notion this rule change places in jeopardy.

On the basis of the above reasoning I urge the court not to adopt the proposed change to Rule 8.4 of the Professional Rules of Conduct.

Sincerely,



Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Melissa Ruger
Columbus, MT

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DEC 07 2016

Ed Smith

CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

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ORIGINAL

DEC 07 2016

Dec. 3, 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

Clerk of the Supreme Court
PO Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Re: Professional Rules of Conduct
Rule # 8.4(g)

Honorable Members of the Court,

You have called for public comment of the proposed new rule #8.4(g) of the Professional Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys and as a concerned citizen of the Great State of Montana, born and raised, I would like to submit my request for rejection of this rule.

I am concerned about another freedom of speech issue being attacked and our rights to believe and express

ourselves infringed upon.

Our freedoms are spelled out in the Constitution of the United States of America, a country built on religious freedom. The First Amendment secures this freedom for us.

I hope you will reject S. 4 (g). As Montanans we pride ourselves as common sense people who stick to our values and do not buckle under to outside pressures from others.

Thank you for listening,
Mary Kathryn Bradley
Cut Bank, Mt.

ORIGINAL

Montana Supreme Court

P.O. Box 203003

Helena, Mt. 59620-3003

Dec. 5, 2016

Honorable Members of the Court

You have called for public comment of the proposed new Rule 8.4 (g) of the professional Rules of conduct for Montana Attorneys. As a concerned citizen, pastor and business owner, I hereby submit my request that you reject this rule for the following reasons. This is government over reach that will interfere with freedom of speech and the freedom of religion we are blessed to have in the United States of America, "one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Respectfully,



Nancy Pendergast Concerned citizen

Pastor---Barnabas Ministries

Business owner---Hamilton Heritage, Inc.

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DEC 07 2016

Ed Smith

CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Montana Supreme Court
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT. 59620-3003
Dec. 5, 2016

Honorable Members of the Court

You have called for public comment of the proposed new Rule 8.4(g) of the professional Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys. As a concerned citizen, I hereby submit my request that you reject this rule for the following reasons. This is a government overreach that interferes with my freedom of religion and my freedom of speech we are blessed to have in the United States of America, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Sincerely,
Gerrit Pemborgst

FILED

DEC 07 2016

Ed Smith

CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

December 2, 2016

Honorable Members of the Court,

I am writing regarding the Professional Rules of Conduct, Rule 8.4(g).

I am against this rule as a concerned citizen. This rule would infringe upon the rights of lawyers who practice law according to their belief in an Almighty God who sets His laws on their heart.

Where does religious freedom come in under this rule? What about freedom of speech? What about the government interference in a person's life?

I hope you will decide against this rule.

Karen Ernst

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DEC 07 2016

Ed Smith

CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

Clerk of the Montana Supreme Court
PO Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

ORIGINAL

Re: Professional Rules of Conduct- Rule 8.4

December 5, 2016

Honorable Members of the Court,

In your order of October 26, 2016 regarding case number AF 09-0688 you have called for public comment on the proposed new Rule 8.4(g) of the Professional Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys.

As a minister of a local congregation in Billings, Montana I am deeply *concerned* about the limitations on freedom of religion and freedom of speech that the adoption of this new rule will impose unnecessarily on those that hold to historic, orthodox, Biblical views on sexual orientation, gender identity, and marriage. The right to exercise our religious beliefs and to speak freely without fear are the hallmarks of American society – if these freedoms are taken away, we have lost what is most precious to all of us.

The ABA Committee on Ethics' Memorandum of December 22, 2015, explaining the purpose of the proposed rule change favorably quotes the sentiment that there is "a need for a cultural shift in understanding the inherent integrity of people..." If I understand this statement correctly, the purpose of proposing this rule change is to impose a "cultural shift" on all Montana attorneys and thus limiting their freedom of speech and religion as citizens. Rather than protecting the rights of the attorneys, their clients, or the purpose of the court, this is an attempt by a small segment of society to force their personal views on others even if it violates their conscience.

I am deeply concerned that the adoption of this rule will also limit the access to legal counsel that churches and non-profits need simply based on their religious beliefs thus creating hardship on individuals and groups that seek the betterment of their communities!

I urge the court to not adopt the proposed changes to Rule 8.4 of the Professional Rules of Conduct.

Sincerely,



Pastor Alex Chai
Word of Life Fellowship

FILED

DEC 07 2016

Ed Smith

CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

Re: Professional Rules of Conduct, Rule 8.4(g)

Honorable Members of the Court,

You have called for public comment of the proposed new Rule 8.4(g) of the Professional Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys. As a [concerned citizen] [pastor] [business owner] [Attorney], I hereby submit my request that you reject this rule for the following reasons.

[insert your statement here Consider religious freedom, government overreach, freedom of speech or other points for your comments.]

Signed, *Lily Riley*

[Your Name] *Lily Riley*

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DEC 07 2016

Ed Smith

CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

12/2/2016

ORIGINAL


December 5, 2016

Re: Professional Rules of Conduct, Rule 8.4(g)

Honorable Members of the Court,
You have called for public comment of the proposed new Rule 8.4(g) of the Professional Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys. As a concerned citizen and youth pastor, I hereby submit my request that you reject this rule for the following reasons.

This rule would be a government overreach of the First Amendment. An attorney's ability to practice law in our great state should not be based on religious beliefs. The wonderful freedom we have in this country has its foundation on the ability of every citizen to speak freely without fear of loss of life, liberty or their pursuit of happiness. Taking away a person's rights to practice their profession would definitely be an encroachment on their rights.

Thank you for considering my plea.

Respectfully, 
Vinson Vannett

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DEC 07 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

December 5, 2016

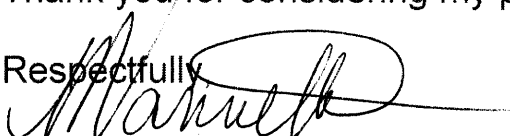
Re: Professional Rules of Conduct, Rule 8.4(g)

Honorable Members of the Court,
You have called for public comment of the proposed new Rule 8.4(g) of the Professional Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys. As a concerned citizen and youth pastor's wife, I hereby submit my request that you reject this rule for the following reasons.

This rule would be a government overreach of the First Amendment. An attorney's ability to practice law in our great state should not be based on religious beliefs. The wonderful freedom we have in this country has its foundation on the ability of every citizen to speak freely without fear of loss of life, liberty or their pursuit of happiness. Taking away a person's rights to practice their profession would definitely be an encroachment on their rights.

Thank you for considering my plea.

Respectfully,



Mistina Vannett

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DEC 07 2016

Ed Smith

CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Re: Professional Rules of Conduct, Rule 8.4(g)

Honorable Members of the Court,

You have called for public comment of the proposed new Rule 8.4(g) of the Professional Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys. As a concerned citizen, I hereby submit my request that you reject this rule for the following reasons.

This law is a violation of the citizens of Montana's rights to practice their religious freedom and free speech, and violates our first amendment rights. Such a law, would impose the beliefs and practices of transgenders, gay, and lesbians over a Christian's right to believe and practice their walk of life with Christ.

It is wrong to impose one citizens rights over another due to their life styles. Such a law, would make it impossible for a Christian lawyer to defend their clients, when this law is in effect.

Should laws be made to protect all citizens?

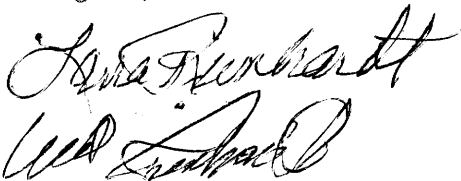
This law is without doubt, government overreach, and violates both religious freedom and freedom of speech.

We the people ask you to consider the consequences of such an action and reject the proposed new Rule 8.4(g) of the Professional Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys.

The citizens of the state of Montana are counting on you to be fair to all citizens and not impose hardships on them due to their beliefs.

Your consideration of our religious rights is greatly appreciated.

Signed,



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DEC 07 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

December 2, 2016

ORIGINAL

Clerk of the Montana Supreme Court

P.O. Box 203003

Helena, MT 59620-3003

FILED

DEC 07 2016

Ed Smith

CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

Re: Professional Rules of Conduct, Rule 8.4(g)

Honorable Members of the Court,

you have called for public comment as the proposed new Rule 8.4(g) of the Professional Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys.

As a concerned citizen, I am appalled that such a narrow-minded and restrictive approach to religious freedom would even be considered in the great state of Montana.

Please completely reject this rule for the following reasons:

-) It blatantly tramples on the personal religious convictions of faith people by insisting on a politically-correct perversion.
-) It is broad government over-reach.
-) It is not the place of the court to limit freedom of speech or freedom of religion. If these sacred rights are to be restricted at all, it should only happen by action taken by elected representatives.

Sincerely, Mary L. Hodges

Dean R. Hodges

ORIGINAL

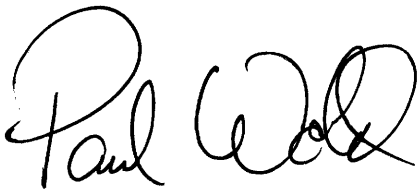
Re: Professional Rules of Conduct, Rule 8.4(g)

Honorable Members of the Court,

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This is in opposition of my religious freedom. It is definitely government overreach. Finally, it cancels out my freedom of speech.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Webb". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" and last name "Webb" clearly distinguishable.

FILED

DEC 07 2016

Ed Smith

CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Clerk of Montana Supreme Court
PO Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Re: Professional Rules of Conduct- Rule 8.4

Honorable Members of the Court,

12/5/16

In response to your call for public comment regarding case number AF 09-0688 on the proposed new Rule 8.4(g) of the Professional Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys, we hereby submit our request that you decline the adoption of this rule.

This rule would severely limit Montana Lawyers' verbal conduct, even in social situations in connection with the practice of law. This limitation is a dangerous "foot in the door" to the total abolishment of free speech. This concerns us greatly. Who will be next?

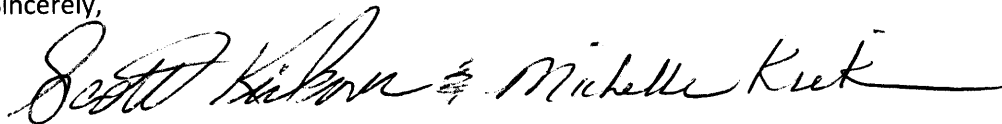
Montana lawyers may also find themselves under the threat of discipline by associating themselves with religious organizations that hold certain behaviors connected to a sexual orientation, gender identity or marital status, to be contrary to their belief system. This is an open assault on religious freedom which would very likely result in lack of access to legal advice from lawyers who are reluctant to grant pro-bono work, or to sit on the governing boards of congregations and not-for-profit companies because it would not allow for sincerely held religious beliefs held by a lawyer to be spoken against such behaviors without acting in a discriminatory manner. The adoption of this rule, threatens their very livelihood on the basis of their speech. If they speak their beliefs they may be disciplined.

Accordingly, under this rule change, only the "favored" classes will enjoy the support of Montana attorneys while the rest will be denied due to lawyers' fear of facing discipline for not being "politically correct".

This rule change was not proposed to protect clients, attorneys, or the court. It was proposed because the ABA is trying to push an ideological agenda. Social engineering should not be tolerated or supported by the court. The court is not and never was intended to be the final authority of social values but rather, to interpret the law. This is precisely why we have a nation founded on the rule of law, a notion this rule change places in jeopardy.

On the basis of the above reasoning we urge the court not to adopt the proposed change to Rule 8.4 of the Professional Rules of Conduct.

Sincerely,



Mr. & Mrs. Scott & Michelle Kiekover
Billings, MT

FILED

DEC 07 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Re: Professional Rules of Conduct, Rule 8.4(g)

Honorable Members of the Court,

You have called for public comment concerning Rule 8.4(g) of the Professional Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys. As a concerned citizen, I hereby submit my request that you reject this rule for the following reasons.

First of all our country was founded on the principal of freedom of religion, freedom of conscience and most certainly free speech. This kind of rule puts men and women under government overreach forcing those of deeply held convictions and beliefs in Biblical Christianity to set aside conscience and convictions which as citizens they have full right to live them out in all areas of life, home or work.

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DEC 07 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

Last of all as a voting citizen
I ask that you reject this rule; our
government should never be about
forcing one groups beliefs upon another
this to me is no different than
the reasons our fore fathers came to
this great land and country.

Signed

John Klier

ORIGINAL

December 5, 2016

Clerk of the Montana Supreme Court
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

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DEC 07 2016

To Whom It May Concern at the
Clerk of the Montana Supreme Court's Office,

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

As a concerned Christian citizen of Montana and the USA, I was troubled to find out that the Montana Supreme Court is considering a bigoted, Nazi-esque and totalitarian test to penalize Christian attorneys and others of conscience who would speak out against the evil of homosexual marriage through the proposed Professional Rule of Conduct 8.4 (g).

If I recall, Nazi Germany marginalized and vilified Jews. Removing them from the professions was one of their first steps. This rule follows a similar path. Such a rule negates the values of America and is utterly repugnant! Such a rule adds to the growing injustices in this nation against true Christians and Jews (those that take the Bible seriously), begging for God's wrath. Romans 1:18 notes, 'The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness...'

This proposed rule is antichrist! The truth is that religion and "sexual orientation" are mutually exclusive classes. The truth also is also that "sexual orientation" and "sexual identity" are abominations of behavior per the Bible in Leviticus 18:22 and also they make a sham of the concept of preferred classes. Sexual orientation is a nonsensical and deceptive name for a sin that is as old or older than the destroyed cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Sin should not be protected or enshrined. The Book of Proverbs notes, "It is not good to show partiality to the wicked and cast aside the righteous in judgment." Proverbs 24:24 also notes that, "He who says to the wicked, 'You are righteous,' Him the people will curse; Nations will abhor him..."

Homosexuality is a choice, a sinful one. It is not an "orientation" that one is born with. Calling this sin an orientation, while politically correct and perhaps popular among some, effectively calls God a liar and is exceedingly blasphemous. This proposed addition to the Professional Rules of Conduct which would threaten an attorney in Montana with losing their professional license is likewise an antichrist abomination, effectively denying freedom of religion, conscience and speech to attorneys. It is also a wicked attempt to perpetuate the folly of same-sex marriage.

In the possible event that the recent misguided decision legalizing "same-sex marriage" by the U.S Supreme Court is overturned by a more rational, just, and wise ruling, there could be a situation where a Montana attorney could not support a duly voted on amendment to the Montana Constitution that defines marriage as only between a man and a woman. The late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia referred to the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing "same-sex marriage" as a case of "social transformation without representation." The enshrinement of same-sex marriage by governmental entities is an "in-your-face" elbow in the eye of true Christians and God Himself! Despite the deceptive rhetoric about separation of church and state espoused by many liberals, such a rule of conduct would be an example of creating a state

religion, a wicked one! Such a rule is Orwellian, as noted earlier, more in tune with Nazi Germany or the former Soviet Union.

Again, such a "rule of conduct" would be a curse to Christian Montana attorneys and also the citizens of Montana by denying freedom of speech, conscience and religion. It would also perpetuate the gross injustice of homosexual marriage being thrust on our state by requiring local officials to grant marital rights to such wicked unions and requiring attorneys to remain silent about such abuse. In Genesis 12:3, Almighty God promised to Abraham that He would "bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you." This promise applies to Jews and Christians today through the work of the Lord, Jesus Christ. Such a professional rule would be a curse to Montana Christian attorneys and to Montanans interested in justice. Additionally, the Lord promises to contend with those who contend with His people in the Bible.

I would urge the court to respect the values of freedom in our nation and also to fear God and not add this misguided rule to the Professional Rules of Conduct for attorneys in Montana.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Daniel D. O'Hara".

Daniel D. O'Hara

ORIGINAL

1 of 2

Clerk of Montana Supreme Court
PO Box 203003
Helena, MT. 59620-3603

Re: Professional Rules of Conduct- Rule 8.4

FILED

Honorable Members of the Court,

DEC 07 2016

As you have desired input from the public regarding case number AF 09-0688 on proposed new rule 8.4(g) of the Professional Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys in your order of October 26, 2016, I am giving my comment.

I am a Registered Nurse residing in Missoula for the last 30 years, as well as partner in two small businesses, and wife and mother.

I simply ask that you would not adopt this rule. This rule has many negative short and long-term ramifications.

Specifically, it will limit freedom of speech and religious liberty, giving certain groups of people special privileges over another. For example:

Comment 4 to Rule 8.4(g) says that "lawyers may engage in conduct undertaken to promote diversity and

Inclusion without violating this Rule by, for example, implementing initiatives aimed at recruiting, hiring, retaining and advancing diverse employees."

As a small business owner, it's not difficult to see a problem here. Montana lawyers would be disciplined for comments about hiring a white male as opposed to hiring a gay.

These are a few of the reasons I beg the court not to adopt the proposed change to Rule 8.4 of the Professional Rules of Conduct.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline F. Vannoy R.N.
December 3, 2016.

Jacqueline F. Vannoy
12295 Dusty Lane
Missoula, MT. 59808
(406) 728-4076